

# MINUTES



## Climate Protection Action Committee Monthly Appointee Meeting Tuesday, July 6, 2021 8:30 a.m.



**Members/staff present:** Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Penny Delaney Cothran, John Epting, Gretchen Lambert, Bob Petrulis, Clint Shealy, Tameria Warren, Samantha Yager, Lori Ziolkowski.

**Guests:** Stacey Washington, SC Energy Office; Robert Gudea, University of SC.

Dr. Z. called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Minutes from the last meeting were presented. Gretchen Lambert made a motion that they be accepted as presented; Bob Petrulis seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Z. explained that the main business for today would be to discuss the July 20 presentation to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee meeting. Dr. Z. will be out of the country, and vice chair Bob Petrulis will be making the presentation in her absence. There were a few general discussions about the presentation. Clint will draft an email and send to Dr. Z. and Bob with some points to

Petrulis then updated the group on the June 17 Keep Columbia Cool webinar. The program focused on ways residents could beat the summer heat and included segments on choosing an A/C unit, Columbia Police Department's Fan the Heat program, tips and programs from Dominion and the impact of heat on health. The event was a second quarterly webinar about energy and climate change; the next is tentatively scheduled for mid-September and will feature a "back to school" theme to showcase environmental learning programs in schools and universities.

Dr. Z. then move to cohort updates.

Mary Pat participates on WRI's Pole-Mounted Charging Cohort / EV Learners' Cohort. She explained that the cohort skipped their last meeting due to a conflict with the moderator. She also explained that since kicking off, WRI had split the group into two sub-groups: one for "101" cities like Columbia; the other for cities with ore experience and expertise with pole-mounted chargers.

Dr. Z (along with limited City staff and possible partners) are participating in WRI's renewable aggregate procurement cohort. She explained that the cohort had gotten larger and a little more complicated, and that the City group is considering the possibility of meeting in between cohort meetings to be more prepared for the expanded scope.

For staff updates, Mary Pat mentioned that she is working to calibrate CPAC's working relationship with the City's board and commissions staff member, Ashely Jenkins. To that end, all communications with Ashley will now go through staff. Before each City Council meeting agenda approval, Mary Pat and Ashley will meet to be sure that applications have been received, information is up-to-date and appointments are on the agenda. Ashley is looking into the possibility of having the generic boards and commission application updated so CPAC has both a voting and non-voting appointee selection.

Samantha Yager reported good news on recycling. This past cycle the commodity prices were higher than they've been in recent history. All commodity prices are up, and the City's bill was down to \$7000 from highs of \$20,000 with the possibility of rebates eventually returning. She said that the City continues to work on recycling contamination rates, which also helps.

It was announced that CPAC's presentation to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee on Tuesday, July 20 would be an in person meeting at the City's Busby Street Facility at 10 a.m. There will be no restriction on the number of attendees allowed, but masks will be required. The City Council meeting later than afternoon will be limited to council, staff and individuals with business before the Council; others may still watch on Zoom.

Because that meeting conflicts with the CPAC working meeting that same day, it was decided to skip the July 20 working meeting. The next CPAC appointee meeting will be virtual via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., followed by the larger advisory meeting at 10 a.m.

ACM Clint Shealy reported that the City had received good news that they were on the short list to receive a FEMA grant of \$32 million to accelerate the recovery of the canal, breached in the October 5, 2015 flooding. The hydroelectric will be back in service, increasing the overall resilience of the City's water supply. Confirmation of the grant will come in September.

Having no new business or old business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.